

ORIGINAL DESIGN FOR A VASE.



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THE vase represented by our engraving was designed and modelled at the School of Design by Mr. W. J. Wills, modeller, of 16, Cumming-street, North, Pentonville, and obtained a premium at the last distribution of prizes. On the body of the vase the Thames is allegorized, Commerce and Mercury, the god of merchandize, appear in the foreground; surmounting the whole is the figure of Britannia.

The engraving is one-seventh of the real size of the vase: the whole height is 3 feet 6 inches.

DECORATIONS OF THE NEW HOUSE OF LORDS.

SIR,—As it appears by an article in the last number of "THE BUILDER," as well as in notices contained of late in other periodicals, that a misconception prevails as to the nature of my employment in the works of the new palace at Westminster, I think it incumbent on me, in justice to Mr. Barry, to state that I am engaged by him, and by him alone, with the approval of the Government, to assist in preparing working drawings and models from his designs of all the wood carvings and other details of the internal decorations; and to procure models and drawings of the best examples of ancient decorative art of the proper kind, wherever they are to be found, as specimens for the guidance of the workmen in respect of the taste and feeling to be imitated; to engage with artists, and the most skillful workmen that can be procured in every branch of decorative art, and to superintend personally the practical execution of the works upon the most economical terms

compatible with the nature of it, and its most perfect performance. In fulfilling the duties of my office, I do not do anything whatever on my own responsibility; all models and working drawings being prepared from Mr. Barry's designs, and submitted to him for his approval or alteration previous to their being carried into effect; in fine, my occupation is simply to assist in carrying out practically Mr. Barry's own designs and views in all respects.

Trusting to your fairness in giving insertion to this letter in your next number,

I am, Sir, &c., A. WELBY PUGH.
London, Sept. 3rd, 1845.

SIR,—Replying to the observations contained in your last number "On English Decorations and the New House of Lords," I can state distinctly, that not one single foreigner is, or has been engaged upon the decorations of the New House of Lords; that after receiving the sketches from Mr. Barry, I have drawn them out full size with my own hands, and have entirely directed the execution of them under Mr. Barry's immediate instructions and control. I hope you will give insertion to this plain statement of facts in your next number.

I am, Sir, &c., JOHN G. CRACK.
Wigmore-street, Sept. 2nd.

STONE BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER TAFF, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

POWELL-PAYNE (the bridge of the East-house), or the Newbridge, is an extraordinary piece of masonry, consisting of a single arch thrown across the river Taff. It is situated about halfway between Merthyr Tydfil and Cardiff, on the turnpike-road leading from the Merthyr and Cardiff turnpike-road to the

Taff Vale Railway Station and Llantrisant, and forms a conspicuous object in the beautiful vale of the Taff, which, being a favoured county, possesses unusual facilities of transit, namely, a good turnpike-road, a canal, and locomotive railway, running immediately parallel to each other.

The scenery contiguous is of a rich and romantic character, the confluence of the Taff and Rhondda Vawr, the amphitheatre of hills, the bold and stupendous bridge, the luxuriance of the hanging woods, the projecting masses of rock, with the foaming and tortuous course of the river Taff, alongside which the railway winds its course, all may be seen at once, presenting a gorgeous and magnificent spectacle, more particularly if viewed from the eminence in the south-west of the village on the road to Llantrisant. The architect and builder of the bridge was William Edwards, son of a farmer of the parish of Eglwysilan, in the County of Glamorgan, where he was born in the year 1719. Having a natural genius for masonry, he was observed to excel in that art, and has left many interesting specimens of his works, exclusive of the one above alluded to, in various parts of South Wales. In the year 1746 he undertook to build a bridge over the river Taff, consisting of three arches; but owing to the uncommon rapidity of the current of this river when swollen by long and heavy rain (to which it is frequently liable from its contiguity to the Brecknock Beacons, whence it takes its rise), the bridge was soon after its erection swept away. He had given ample security for its stability for seven years (a stipulation which it is customary to make in all contracts for public works in South Wales), and he proceeded on his duty in erecting another with all possible speed. The second